

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 04236 250844Z

44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/085 W

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R 250515Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9060

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, TH, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: RTG-UK AGREEMENT

REF: BANGKOK 3129

1. MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR ON FEB 24
INITIALED MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH PERMITS THAI AIRLINES TO
RESUME CARRYING FIFTH FREEDOM TRAFFIC ON HONG KONG-TOKYO SECTOR,
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS. THESE
INCLUDE, ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS:

A. THAI AIRLINES WILL OFFER MAXIMUM OF 7468 SEATS PER WEEK,
IN EACH DIRECTION, ON BANGKOK HONG KONG SECTOR;

B. SEATS OFFERED ON HONG KONG-TOKYO SECTOR WILL TOTAL NOT
MORE THAN ONE-HALF THOSE ACTUALLY OFFERED ON BANGKOK-HONG KONG;

C. RTG WILL ENFORCE RECENTLY APPROVED FARE ON BANGKOK-HONG
KONG SECTOR (BANGKOK 2148);

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 04236 250844Z

D. THAI INTERNATIONAL WILL DEFER FOR TIME BEING PLANS TO REPLACE WITH DC-10'S TWO DC-8'S ON BANGKOK-LONDON ROUTE.

2. FOREGOING REPRESENTS ABOUT 20-25 PERCENT CUT IN CAPACITY FOR THAI AIRLINES ON HONG KONG-TOKYO SECTOR, BUT THEORETICAL INCREASE ON BANGKOK-HONG KONG. MAIN ISSUE OF COURSE, WHICH LED CATHAY PACIFIC TO PUSH UK GOVERNMENT TO CONFRONT RTG LAST JUNE, WAS DISCOUNTING OF FARES, PARTICULARLY BY AIR SIAM (75 BANGKOK 12037) AND IT WILL APPARENTLY FALL TO CATHAY PACIFIC TO POLICE THIS ASPECT OF AGREEMENT. HMG AND HKG COULD AFFORD TO BE MAGNANIMOUS IN REGARD BANGKOK-HONG KONG CAPACITY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT IN OCTOBER AIR SIAM HALTED AIRBUS SHUTTLE ON THIS SECTOR AND WILL, UNLESS PLANS ARE CHANGED, LOSE ITS 747 AT THE END OF MARCH.

3. DECISION ON LONDON ROUTE MIGHT MEAN THAI INTER WILL STRETCH OUT DC-10 PURCHASE PLANS (BANGKOK 569).
WHITEHOUSE

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